

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22, 24, 26-33, 36-43, and 46-48 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 1-21, 23, 25, 34, 35, 44, and 45 have been cancelled. Claims 22, 33, and 43 have been amended.

Restriction/Election Requirement

The Examiner required restriction to one of two groups: I) claims 1-21, and II) claims 22-48. Applicants confirm the election of group II, which includes claims 22-48.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 22, 23, 25, 30, 32-36, 42-45, and 48, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,015,346 to Bennett ("Bennett").

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 24, 26-29, 31, 37-41, 46, and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,089,976 to Schneider *et al.*

Personal Interview and Interview Summary

Applicants note with appreciation the interview with Examiner Andre Kim and Examiner John Hotaling on October 18, 2007. Pursuant to the discussions in the interview, Applicants have amended independent claims 22, 33, and 43 to clarify the invention.

During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the proposed amended claim may overcome the prior art.

Independent Claims 22, 33, and 43

Independent claim 22 has been amended to further clarify that multiple awards are awarded in response to revealing a wild icon subsequent to revealing two pairs of game-theme icons, each pair including matching game-theme icons. Claims 33 and 43 have been amended in accordance with the amendments to claim 22.

Bennett fails to disclose the claimed invention that is set forth in amended claims 22, 33, and 43. For example, Bennett only discloses that a single award is provided if the player selects two matching indicia, or if the player selects a wild icon and one other indicia.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 22, 24, 26-33, 36-43, and 46-48 are allowable.

Conclusion

It is Applicants' belief that all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and thus reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

A check for \$120 is enclosed for a one-month extension of time fee. It is believed that no other fees are due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Nixon Peabody LLP Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247079-000292USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 29, 2007

By



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